



Tallil Times

407th Air Expeditionary Group, Ali Base, Iraq

Mar. 11, 2005

IN BRIEF

Bedrock will replace current Tent City

The votes have been tallied and Bedrock edged out Freedom Village and The Oasis as the new name for Tent City.

The top three winners will be recognized and awarded their prizes as soon as the 407th AEG commander approves the name.

Vandalism will not be tolerated

There has been a rash of graffiti appearing on the latrine stall walls; some of this graffiti is racial in tone. This poisonous hostility will not be tolerated and those caught engaging in such acts will be punished accordingly. If you observe this activity, report it to your first sergeant, commander or Law Enforcement personnel.

Dispose of non-serviceable DCUs properly

The 407th ESVS has established a uniform drop box for the purpose of disposing of non-serviceable uniform items.

The purpose of the drop box is to prevent our uniforms from being used against us by our enemies. This is a very real concern.

It's imperative from a Force Protection standpoint that no uniform item(s) be disposed of in any dumpster or trash receptacle.

The new uniform drop box is located behind the Shoppette next to the ESVS warehouse tent. Drop box hours of operation are Saturdays from (1400-1700 hours). The alternate location for uniform disposal is the Hot Spot. Uniforms can be dropped off at any time (24/7). Please contact the Master Sgt. Fred Carter, ESVS Superintendent, at 445-2005 if you require additional information.



Photos by Master Sgt. Mark Bucher

Staff Sgt. Erica Clark, 407th ESFS, talks with a young local Bedouin girl Saturday as she places a shoe on her foot. Sergeant Clark and Senior Master Sgt. Robert Appling, 407th ECES fire chief (In Back) volunteered to help the local Bedouins as part of the Operation Reach Out program.

Operation Reach Out

By Master Sgt. Terry J. Nelson

407th AEG Public Affairs

A convoy of U.S. Army and Air Force vehicles assembled Saturday morning at the 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron's armory. This was not your standard convoy, these trucks were not carrying materials for troops up north - they're loaded down with toys, shoes, clothes and other items donated to the Operation Reach Out program.

The convoy departs Ali Base and moves across the desert, leaving dust bellowing behind. Destination, a small Bedouin camp, one of hundreds spread across Southern Iraq. As the trucks arrive, small shoeless children run to greet them, smiles adorn their faces.

For more than 15 years, they have lived on the barren land that surrounds Ali Base. These local Bedouin families are survivors and they play an important role in base de-

fense, by providing security forces with information which could stop possible terrorist attacks on Ali.

Army and Air Force volunteers climb aboard the truck and start handing down toys and candy for the children. A young girl is lifted onto the back of the truck and fitted for shoes.

"I believe helping the Bedouins around Ali Base is an awesome display of care from everyone that was involved," said Master Sgt. Lavon Coles, 407th Expeditionary Logistics Squadron first sergeant. "We were able to spread a moment of joy which will probably have a lasting affect on their lives and the perceptions of who we are and what we represent."

Operation Reach Out is an initiative managed by the 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron and supported by the combined efforts of everyone in the 407th

Commander's Corner

By Col. Dennis M. Diggett

407th AEG Commander

For many of us, this month marks the halfway point of our AEF 3/4 deployment at Ali Base. This rotation has accomplished extraordinary things and now is not the time to become lax in our efforts – we must maintain our professionalism every single day we're here.

While in the past Ali has traditionally been the target of fewer threats than the bases located north of us, the threat remains real. Local terrorists are somewhat embarrassed at their lack of success here at Ali Base and I ask each and every one of you to remain vigilant and work with me to keep the red from fading from the faces of these local anti-freedom dead-enders.

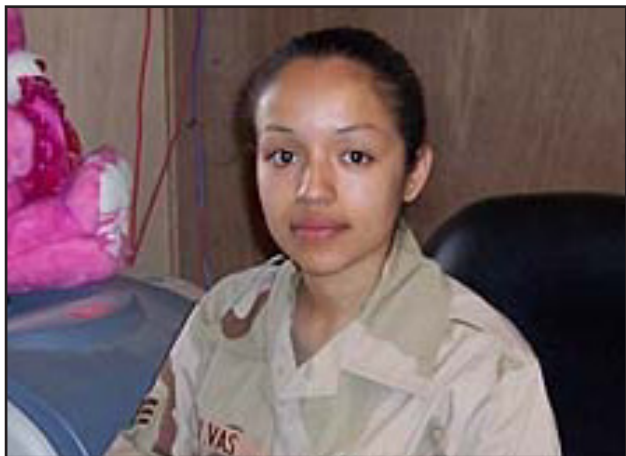
I briefed all of you at the beginning of the rotation that it was very important to pay attention to safety as you began a tour at a new location. The focus on safety is just as important between now and the end of our rotation; don't allow your familiarity with Ali Base lull you into a false sense of complacency. Another thing I briefed at the beginning of the rotation was the Wingman



philosophy of watching each others' backs. Having 60 days under our belt on this rotation means we have 60 days remaining. Watch your buddy for signs of depression and suicidal ideation. If someone is showing signs that they are more than just a little homesick, keep them involved in daily and social activities, and remember, the chaplains are specially trained to help, as are the life-skills specialists in the clinic. Also please remember it is each and every one of you that are causing the 407th to easily exceed basic mission requirements and that the senior staff walks around holding their heads high as a result of our pride in you.

A friendly reminder: the 407th Security Forces Squadron has activated the Law and Order flight. These security forces troops will be deploying vehicle radar and stopping people for speeding, running stop signs or illegally passing other vehicles. Now that we have law and order specialists on the base, the speed limits on base have been raised to realistic levels that everyone will be expected to adhere to. Please be safe and adhere to all the rules of the road.

I am proud of the effort the men and women of the 407th Air Expeditionary Group have put forth every single day since we've arrived. As long as we continue to display the professional demeanor that's made our tour successful thus far, we will all go home safely together.



2004 ACC Annual Award Winner...

Congratulations to Senior Airman Alejandra Cuevas, 407th Air Expeditionary Group, for being selected as Air Combat Command's 2004 Communications and Information Airman of the Year. Airman Cuevas is a proud member of the 3rd Combat Communications Support Squadron, "3rd Herd" out of Tinker AFB, OK.



332nd AEW Airman of the Month...

Senior Airman Eric Rackard, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, has been selected as the Airman of the Month for the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing. Airman Rackard was the first Tallil/Ail monthly award winner to win at the wing level in more than six months.



The Tallil Times

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A father's thanks, a daughter's smile

By Joshua L. Weinstein

Portland Press Herald Writer

You wouldn't know, to look at the tiny girl with enormous brown eyes, that she had open-heart surgery a few days ago.

You would sense a sweetness from her smile and know that the 5-year-old Iraqi girl should be taller, should weigh more than 32 pounds. If you asked her to tell her story, she might glance at you with those eyes that fill her face, that fill, in fact, a room. But she probably would not answer.

In that, Noor Abd Al-Hady Hassan is like any other shy 5-year-old.

So Monday, only four days after her surgery, Noor obliged a news conference at Portland's Ronald McDonald House with smiles but not words.

Her father, Abdul Al-Hady Hassan Hesab, did the talking.

It was the first time he has publicly talked about his daughter, his journey from Iraq, his impressions of Maine, since arriving in the state Feb. 17.

"Every day I see a progress in her health," Hesab said through a translator.

He described himself as a poor man, a father of four boys and two girls, a security guard at an elementary school in Nasiriyah, about 200 miles southeast of Baghdad.

He described himself, too, as a fortunate man who, because of the kindness of American soldiers stationed in Iraq and the generosity of Maine Heart Surgical Associates and Maine Medical Center, saw his daughter's heart repaired.

"If Noor stayed there in Iraq, the prospect for operation in the near future would have been very difficult," he said. "There are not so many qualified doctors . . . and for me as a poor man to reach them would be very, very difficult."

But he did meet members of the Utah Army National Guard who were stationed

in Iraq. And they worried about Noor's congenital heart defect. So they found Dr. Reed Quinn, who knows the unit's chaplain through the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Quinn quickly agreed to perform the surgery.

On Monday, Maine's only pediatric heart surgeon grew emotional talking about what Noor means to him.

"When I made a decision to do pediatric heart surgery, it was because of a girl very much like Noor," he said, explaining that the girl died on the operating table. "I promised the Lord if he gave me those skills, that I'd use them to bless the lives of others he put in my path."

A tear fell from his left eye.

"It's a fulfillment of a dream and a promise," Quinn said.

Hesab, too, was emotional.

He said the doctors and staff of Maine Med and Maine Heart Surgical Associates have become his family, and that Maine has become his home.

"Maine is very welcoming," he said. "Somewhere in the back of my mind, this place belongs to me."

He said he has taken photographs from the moment he arrived and that he will show them to his daughter so that she can, one day, understand where she was.

"When I go back, I will tell my people that the American people are friendly to the Iraqi people, as I have seen this myself," he said, his own brown eyes warm, like his daughter's. "I will explain a lot that the Americans are not our enemies, but they are our friends."

He said there have been surprises since he arrived here.

He was not prepared for the architecture of Maine, but he will remember it.

"What I will not forget is this land, which is covered by snow and this cold weather,



Staff photo by Jack Milton

Noor Abd Al-Hady Hassan and her father, Abdul Al-Hady Hassan Hesab, appear Feb. 28, at a press conference to discuss Noor's heart surgery. Hesab, who said he sees daily progress in Noor's health, thanked the doctors.

and the friendship, the friends, the people who gave me a hand," he said.

He said his daughter asks him, "Is my heart now OK?" and that he can tell her, yes, it is.

And he said that Noor used to sing a song about being sick.

"My heart, my heart," he recited, "cure my heart."

Now, she's all better and doesn't sing the song. She will go back home in a month or so.

Noor will miss the toys - "different colors, different sizes, different sounds," her father said.

He will miss the warmth he found in a snow-covered land.

(To find out more about Noor's journey from An-Nassiriah to the states read the front-page story in the Feb. 25, edition of the Tallil Times).



Listen up Warfighters ...

Vandalism will not be tolerated in my camp,

report any suspicious activity to the Security Forces ... carry on troops!



Is your family still ready?

By Master Sgt. Jeff Cross

777th EAS First Sergeant

Well, here you are at Ali Base moving steadily through your rotation. You met all of the deployment requirements to get here; medically cleared, training complete for the duration and you dragged five bags of gear with you when you arrived in the AOR. You carefully planned for this deployment and remain ready to continue the job, but how about your family? Are they still ready?

Many folks get geared up to deploy and think of every possible thing they may need but often times we take for granted what could happen back home while we are away. You may wonder, what could possibly happen at home when you are away? It may be small, but for one thing it's almost spring

and the grass will need mowing before you get back. Does anyone else besides you know how to operate the lawnmower, or are you the only one that can start this thing purchased at Sears 10 years ago? Let us not forget the weed eater gas must be mixed with oil. Believe me, I have seen it happen, of course not to me personally.

What about all those bills that you normally take care of? Does your other half know which bills are due and when? Many people choose to conduct this type business on line these days however some do not. I personally still do things the old fashioned way. Regardless, having someone at home able to handle these issues while you are away could prove very useful.

Are you calling or emailing your family members? If you're not, you should. It can

be good for you and them. If there are children at home they may be curious to know what mom or dad is doing. Also, mom or dad at home can certainly use some adult conversation once in a while. If you are unmarried, have you called mom, dad, brother or sister? You know they are worried about you so give them a call or send the email. These little things can go along way with both you the deployed member and the family at home.

Our families readiness for us to sustain a 120 day deployment is something that none of us should take for granted. Hopefully your careful pre-planning prior to deployment will hold down the fort at home and allow you to focus on your mission here. Stop now and again and ask yourself, is my family still ready?

AROUND YOUR AIR FORCE

General Moseley testifies on C-130 fleet, readiness

U.S. Representatives questioned the condition of the C-130 Hercules fleet during a hearing of the House Armed Services Committee subcommittee on readiness March 3.

It was just one of the areas Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley discussed as he testified on the readiness of the force and to what extent the president's fiscal 2006 budget request supports future readiness levels.

"We're facing readiness challenges in a number of platforms," General Moseley said in his opening statement. "Our No. 1 challenge is to recapitalize aging systems."

General Moseley first answered questions about the status of the unmanned aerial vehicle fleet and about improvements being made to the A-10 Thunderbolt II. But questions focused mainly on the aging aircraft.

"We've got about 6,100 airplanes," General Moseley said, "and we've got about 2,200 airplanes that are either grounded or operating under some flight restriction.

"That flight restriction could be something very minimal. But, it could be something very significant, like the C-130Es, where we can't carry the fuel, or we can't carry the weight, or we can't maneuver the airplane because of the wing box or the spar assembly."

Rep. Robin Hayes said the Air Force needed to raise the volume level of its concerns about the C-130 fleet.

"A lot of us in Congress and many of the general public do not know the seriousness of this problem," Congressman Hayes said.

"I'm asking you all to bring this to a much higher level of attention, because it is one of the worst crises that we face. We are spending millions and billions of dollars trying to fix and repair airplanes that are getting more and more expensive and less and less available," he said.

Rep. Jim Marshall said, "(Secretary of Defense Donald) Rumsfeld in earlier testimony ... specifically said that air mobility is a critical thing we need to be focused on. And yet the budget cuts (funding to the) C-130J."

Congressman Marshall said ongoing mobility capability studies say that cutting

the C-130J program at the same time C-130E models are being grounded in Iraq did not make sense.

"I also think that cutting (the) C-130J, the way it's structured, is going to wind up being extremely foolish economically," he said.

General Moseley said he believes the two studies, to be released soon, may call for reconsideration.

One study is the 2005 Mobility Capability Study, and the other is by the Joint Staff, that the Air Force requested, to look at intratheater lift," he said.

"I think both of those will suggest we take another look at the C-130J opportunity and the C-130J multiyear," General Moseley said.

He said the Air Force needs more than 500 C-130s. Two hundred are E models, more than 30 of which are grounded.

"And we're looking at having to ground another 50 or so because of wing spar and wing box issues," General Moseley said.

On the other hand, the general said, the C-130Js now in the field have a proven mission-capability rate of more than 95 percent.

Reach Out

Continued from Page 1

Air Expeditionary Group. Airmen solicit and collect items from their neighbors, churches and friends back home, to donate to the needy Bedouins here in Iraq.

"I think that anything that we can do to help the community is beneficial, not only now but for the next generations. This allows the children the opportunity to see that we are there for them. In essence, not only are we trying to create better living accommodations for them but also stop terrorism," said U.S. Army 1st Lt. Damien Boffardi, of the 484th Movement Control Battalion, deployed to Ali.

"Today we were able to provide more than just toys to children; it allowed two separate branches the opportunity to work together as a team with one goal in mind, making a child smile."

Lieutenant Boffardi said the Soldiers rarely have the opportunity to participate in a humanitarian mission, and he was happy that the 70th Movement Control Team was able to take part by proving the Air Force with transportation and augmenting additional security for them.

"I was reminded that ultimately, whatever branch you serve or what specific job you do day to day, your goal out here is to help the people of Iraq and maintain the peace as best we can, said 1st Lt. Paul Cancino," 407th ELRS. "Small acts like these might



Photos by Master Sgt. Mark Bucher

Master Sgt. Terry Nelson, 407th AEG, helps a little Bedouin girl put on a pair of shoes Saturday during the Operation Reach Out visit.

allow them to see U.S. and coalition forces in a positive light, and strengthen ties with the local population."

Everyone who took part in this, the first Operation Reach Out of AEF 3/4, was greeted by children who were glad to see them, and parents who appreciated the support.

The volunteers' visited a half dozen small Bedouin camps Saturday. Their homes consisting of tents and fabric, held together by rope, sticks and mud. There was no running water or electricity.

"I never knew just how bad it was over here. We have a song we sing at my hometown church, I am blessed. Part of it says 'I have shoes for my feet, I have plenty to eat,'" said Senior Airman Twyla Wood, 407th ELRS. "Just seeing those kids faces light up made me appreciate even more everything that I had growing up and everything that I have now."

The sentiments were echoed amongst all the people involved with the Operation Reach Out program. According to every volunteer, the program is an example of the many good things Americans are doing while deployed to Iraq.

"From today's experience I take away a finer appreciation for life and what God has blessed me with. We are, by far, a blessed and extremely fortunate nation," said Sergeant Coles.

In all, the volunteers provided gifts to more than 100 Bedouins Saturday. Each child seen was given at least one pair of



Master Sgt. Paul Booton, (Left) and Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Justice, 407th ELRS, help air up a soccer ball given to a Bedouin child Saturday. Tech. Sgt. Justice represented the Focus 56 Council on the trip.

See Reach Out, Page 11

February award winners recognized



Photos by Staff Sgt. Darcie Ildapao

Colonel Dennis M. Diggett, 407th Air Expeditionary Group commander, congratulates monthly awards winners here Mar. 1. The 407th AEG monthly awards program runs a little differently than most home station awards programs. Monthly winners were recognized for accomplishments between January 15, and February 15.

Monthly award winners were:

In the Airman Category; Senior Airman Eric Rackard, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron (Top Left).

In the Noncommissioned Officer Category; Staff Sgt. Eric Mitchell, 777th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (Top Right).

In the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Category; Senior Master Sgt. Adam Marks, 407th ESFS (Bottom Left).

In the Company Grade Officer Category; 2nd Lt. Joseph Wierenga, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron (Middle Right).

The Sharp Sabre Team Award winner for the month was the Force Protection/Intelligence Analysis Team made up of members from the 407th AEG/FP, EOSS/IN, ESFS/S2 and OSI EDET 2409. Due to the nature of their job, a photograph will not be published. The new Sharp Sabre Team Award trophy (Bottom Right) was presented to the team Tuesday.



Rabies: Not a good deployment souvenir

By Master Sgt. Lawrence Robinson

407th ECES Pest Management Team

Have you been looking for a good souvenir or something to help remember your deployment? Considering some cool pictures with yourself and a local dog, cat, or local animal?

General Order 1 states that all personnel are prohibited from "Adopting as pets or mascots, caring for, or feeding any type of domestic or wild animal." This order was given to protect the health and welfare of all personnel assigned to the Air Force and our sister services. Animals such as dogs, cats, jackals, and others have the potential to carry rabies. These animals and several others call Ali Base and the surrounding area their home and are health risk to deployed personnel. Don't let a case of rabies be something you take home!

Army Preventive Medicine, Veterinary Services, Kellogg Brown and Root Vector Control, and Civil Engineer (CE) Pest Management personnel work together on a daily basis to trap and remove these animals from the base. This partnership has led to the removal of over 500 dogs, cats, and other animals from Ali in the last 2 years. These organizations work together by sharing information, performing joint surveys of areas where activity is reported, and the setting of traps. The primary concern of these organizations is the safety of all Airmen, Soldiers, contract personnel, and the Coalition Forces assigned to Ali.

Many who read this article stepped on Ali in the December/January time frame. Since January 2005 there have been over 100 reported cases of rabies in the AOR. The first reported case involved a dog that bit a civilian contractor and proceeded to bite 14



Courtesy Photo

Master Sgt. Lawrence Robinson (Left) and Airman Terrance Murray, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron's pest management team, ready a trap here for catching stray animals.

other individuals. They caught the dog, but it died the next day. After testing they discovered the dog was positive for rabies. When this information reached others another 18 individuals came forward saying that they were also bitten by the same dog. This incident involved 32 personnel altogether and to date the final number of people involved has not been discovered. The next reported case involved a puppy. A harmless little puppy that not only tested positive for rabies but to date has bitten at least 70 people. Everyone that was bitten by the dog and the puppy had to start the rabies series of shots which is a total of five shots. Complying with General Order 1 will help you stay healthy during your deployment.

The majority of people recognize confu-

sion, agitation, abnormal behavior (such as nocturnal creatures being seen in the day), or the classic foaming at the mouth as being the signs of rabies. It is important to note that most mammals can transmit rabies, but infected animals won't always act "rabid." With that being the case the safest practice is to assume that all dogs, cats, and other mammals on Ali have rabies.

If you see any of the animals in your area call the Civil Engineer Customer Service desk at 445-2CES (2237), we'll set a trap in the area as soon as possible. If there is a trap in your area and it has an animal in it, we ask that you call the CE Customer Service desk to remove the trap. With your assistance we can make Ali Base a safer environment for everyone.



Congratulations

Master Sgts. Steve Almeida, 407th AEG, Michael Messersmith, 407th ECES and John Spillane, 777th EAS on your promotion to

Senior Master Sergeant



407th AEG Warrior of the Week SSgt Jim Burke



Unit: 407th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron

Home unit: 18th OSS, Kadena Air Base, Japan

Why other warriors say he's a warrior:

Staff Sgt. Burke revitalized a much needed Flight Information Publication (FLIP) program to support the 777th Squadron's flying mission. He is a leader within the Focus 56 organization, bringing moral improvement issues to the floor for discussion and implementation; like shelves in the latrines. He also ensures information is relayed to those interested in participating in Focus 56 projects. Also, Staff Sgt. Burke volunteered to be a member of the Ziggurat clean up crew which collected nearly 100 bags of trash.

What is your most memorable Air Force experience?

The C-130 ride into Ali Base from Al Udeid

Identify This



KNOW WHAT THIS IS? Each week, the "Tallil Times" staff takes a photo from around Ali Base. If you can identify the object or item, shoot us an e-mail at: tallil.times@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil. with "Identify This" in the subject block. The winner gets their name printed in the Tallil Times. Congratulations to Senior Airman Harry McClure who was the first to correctly identify the photo in last week's newspaper of a piece of jerky.

From the Chapel

An old man, probably some ninety plus years, sat feebly on the park bench. He didn't move, just sat with his head down staring at his hands. When I sat down beside him he didn't acknowledge my presence and the longer I sat I wondered if he was ok.

Finally, not really wanting to disturb him but wanting to check on him at the same time, I asked him if he was ok. He raised his head and looked at me and smiled.

"Yes, I'm fine, thank you for asking," he said in a clear strong voice.

"I didn't mean to disturb you, sir, but you were just sitting here staring at your hands and I wanted to make sure you were ok?" I explained to him.

"Have you ever looked at your hands?" he asked. "I mean really looked at your hands."

I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then palms down. No, I guess I had never really looked at my hands as I tried to figure out the point he was making.

Then he smiled and related this story:

Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years. These hands, though wrinkled, shriveled and weak have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life.

They braced and caught my fall when as a toddler I crashed upon the floor. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back. As a child my mother taught me to fold them in prayer. They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots. They dried the tears of my children and caressed the love of my life.

They held my rifle and wiped my tears when I went off to war. They have been

dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent. They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn son. Decorated with my wedding band they showed the world that I was married and loved someone special.

They wrote the letters home and trembled and shook when I buried my parents and spouse and walked my daughter down the aisle. Yet, they were strong and sure when I dug my buddy out of a foxhole and lifted a plow off of my best friends foot. They have held children, consoled neighbors, and shook in fists of anger when I didn't understand. They have covered my face, combed my hair, and washed and cleansed the rest of my body.

They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw. And to this day when not much of anything else of me works real well these hands hold me up, lay me down, and again continue to fold in prayer. These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of my life.

But more importantly it will be these hands that God will reach out and take when he leads me home.

And He won't care about where these hands have been or what they have done. What He will care about is to whom these hands belong and how much He loves these hands. And with these hands He will lift me to His side.

No doubt I will never look at my hands the same again. I never saw the old man again after I left the park that day but I will never forget him and the words he spoke.

When my hands are hurt or sore or when I stroke the face of my children and wife I think of the man in the park.

I have a feeling he has been stroked and caressed and held by the hands of God.

OUT AND ABOUT



Worship services

Worship is at the 407th Air Expeditionary Group Oasis of Peace Chapel, unless otherwise noted. The chapel is open 24 hours a day for prayer and reflection. For details on worship opportunities, call 445-2006.

Sunday

0730 Catholic Confession
@ Chapel/Chaplain's
Office

0800 Roman Catholic
Mass @ Chapel

0930 Traditional Protestant
Service @ Chapel

1000 LDS Service @
Army Religious Activity
Center

1030 Roman Catholic
Mass @ Camp Cedar

1230 Gospel Service @
Big Top

1800 Contemporary Praise
Team Rehearsal @ Chapel

1900 Contemporary
Worship Service @ Chapel

Monday

1800 Weekday Mass @
Chapel

1830 Gospel Service
Prayer Hour @ Conf.
Room

1930 Gospel Choir
Rehearsal @ Big Top

Tuesday

0600 Weekday Mass @
Chapel

1900 RCIA @ Conf.
Room

Wednesday

1700 Catholic Choir
Rehearsal @ Chapel

1800 Weekday Mass @
Chapel

2000 40 Days of Purpose
Bible Study @ Chapel
Annex

Thursday

0600 Weekday Mass @
Chapel

1830 Catholic Choir
Rehearsal @ Chapel

1900 LDS Study @ Army
Religious Activity Center

1945 Gospel Service Bible
Study @ Chapel

Friday

1800 Weekday Mass @
Chapel

1830 Gospel Choir
Rehearsal @ Chapel

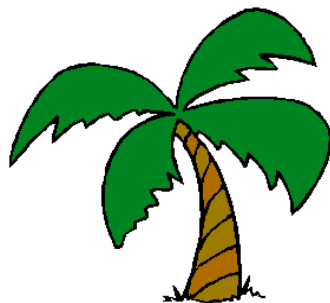
1145 Islamic Prayer @
Army Religious Activity
Center

Saturday

1730 Catholic Confession
@ Chapel/Chaplain's
Office

1800 Catholic Vigil Mass
@ Chapel

1900 Contemporary Praise
Team Rehearsal @ Chapel



Today

Noon, Viewers Choice
8 p.m., Viewers Choice
Midnight, Viewers Choice

Saturday

Noon, Viewers Choice
8 p.m., Viewers Choice
Midnight, Viewers Choice

Sunday

Noon, Viewers Choice
8 p.m., Viewers Choice
Midnight, Viewers Choice

Monday

Noon, Viewers Choice
8 p.m., Viewers Choice
Midnight, Viewers Choice

Tuesday

Noon, Viewers Choice
8 p.m., Viewers Choice
Midnight, Viewers Choice

Wednesday

Noon, Viewers Choice
8 p.m., Viewers Choice
Midnight, Viewers Choice

Thursday

Noon, Viewers Choice
8 p.m., Viewers Choice
Midnight, Viewers Choice

March 18th

Noon, Viewers Choice
8 p.m., Viewers Choice
Midnight, Viewers Choice

Focus 56 Council cleans up the Zig

By Tech. Sgt. James Walberg

407th ELRS

Early Sunday morning as the warm sun beat down on Ali Base, more than 30 members of the Focus 56 Council and guests gathered at the Hot Spot and were bussed out to the Ziggurat for a garbage cleanup project.

The Focus 56 Council is a team of Staff Sgt. (Sel), Staff Sgts., and Tech. Sgts., who meet every other Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at the Chapel Annex.

During these meetings they discuss projects, current issues, and come up with ideas on how to better Ali Base. The main goal of Focus 56 Council, as it is with the First Four and Top Three Councils, is to follow a common motto of "make it better".

It was during a recent Focus 56 Council meeting that the group decided they wanted to clean up the Ziggurat.

They called the 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron and asked them if they would be willing to help.

Senior Master Sgt. Adam Marks, 407th ESFS, helped out by providing a team for the group's security.

Accompanying the Focus 56 Council on the trip was Col. (Sel) John Kresek, 407th AEG deputy commander, Chief Master Sgt. James Lawrence, 407th AEG superintendent and Master Sgt. Evans



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Angelo

Members of the Focus 56 Council pick up garbage Sunday at the Ziggurat. The group picked up nearly 100 bags of trash.

Weiss, 407th AEG First Sergeant.

The group left early that morning with 100 empty trash bags and returned with only five unused! These volunteers did a great job! Not only did this effort improve the site appearance but also gave many of the volunteers the opportunity to visit the historic landmark for the first time. A landmark that is over 4000 years old.

The Ziggurat caretaker, Dhaif Muhsen, thanked Focus 56 members over and over again. To paraphrase him, "Many people visit here but the Air Force is the only group to ever help keep it clean, thank you so much". I am proud to be part of this experience and especially of every single troop that took part in it.

Muscle Beach Events

Today, Yoga, 5:30 a.m.,
Circuit Training, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Horseshoes,
1 p.m., 4 on 4 Street Ball,
6 p.m.

Sunday, 35 and older
5K Run, 9 a.m.,
3 Point Shoot Out 6 p.m.

Monday, Circuit Training,
7 p.m.

Tuesday, Tai Chi at 5:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Taebo, 5:30 a.m.,
Circuit Training, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Tai Chi, 5:30 a.m.,
Bench Press, 6 p.m.

Mar. 18, Yoga, 5:30 a.m.,
Circuit Training, 7:00 p.m.

ESVS Presents Just for fun

Tonight, Combat Bingo,
7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dominoes, 8 p.m.

Sunday, Checkers, 2 p.m.,
Texas Hold-Em Tournament,
Big Top, 4 p.m.

Monday, Madden League,
7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 501 Darts, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Madden League,
7:30 p.m.

Thursday, 8 -Ball, 8:00 p.m.

Mar. 18th, Combat Bingo,
7:30 p.m.

Reach Out

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shoes and a toy. There were many stuffed animals and soccer balls given out along with clothes, personal hygiene supplies and the children's favorite, candy.

There are many people to thank for making Operation Reach Out a successful program. From the Security Forces Airman who made sure the volunteers were protected to the Army personnel who provided vehicles and additional protection.

The Operation Reach Out visit would not have been possible if it hadn't been for the combined efforts of many organizations within the 407th AEG.

In all, the volunteers handed out nearly three full tri-wall sized boxes of toys, candy, shoes and clothing. There are still 13 additional boxes in the warehouse waiting to be delivered on future Operation Reach Out visits. Plans for other visits are already in the works.



Airman 1st Class Jessica Farley, 407th ESVS, shakes hands with a Bedouin child Saturday as Tech. Sgt. Richard Shinn, 407th ESFS, provides security. Airman Farley represented the First Four Council on the Operation Reach Out visit.



Master Sgt. John Ragland (Left), 407th ESFS, discusses the next stop on the Operation Reach Out visit with 1st Lt. Damien Boffardi, 484th Movement Control Battalion. The 407th ESFS and Lt. Boffardi's 5-man team from the 70th Movement Control Team provided security.



Airman 1st Class John Hernandez, 407th ESFS, stands guard during Saturday's Operation Reach Out visit to the Bedouin camps.



Senior Master Sgt. Robert Appling, 407th ECES, hands out candy to local Bedouins Saturday.



Members of the U.S. Army's 70th Movement Control Team discuss security strategy Saturday during the Operation Reach Out visit.

Individuals who have donations for Operation Reach Out need to pass them on to Staff Sgt. Erica Clark, 407th ESFS, so the items can be sorted and grouped prior to distribution.

Sergeant Clark can be reached at phone number 445-2232, or e-mail erica.clark@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil.

If you have questions about Operation Reach Out contact Master Sgt. John Ragland at 445-2077, or e-mail john.ragland@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil.

A committee is currently working on guidelines on how to sign up for a future Operation Reach Out visit.